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**TAFT HOMEWARD BOUND**  
Secretary Cordially Greeted at New England Towns.  
MILLBURY, MASS., December 31.—Secretary of War William H. Taft, who left here shortly before noon to-day to visit his aunt, Mrs. Della C. Torrey, left here this evening for Providence, to board the Federal express at 9:10. He was greeted at the station by about twenty-five persons. When a Spanish American veteran, who was with the party, said to the Secretary, "Mr. Taft, I am glad to see you for your greeting, but don't know your own property."

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**CALLS YOUTSEY A CRANK**  
This Description by Powers's Attorney Provokes Demonstration.  
GEORGETOWN, N. C., December 31.—In the Chale Powers trial to-day Judge J. C. Sims, chief counsel for Powers, in an address lasting three hours, based his argument on the theory that Henry Youtsey was a political crank, imbued with the excitement of the time, and that he had killed William G. Powers, and that this was on Youtsey's own responsibility, and that no conspiracy had been shown by Powers or any one else.

**WEDDING SECRET KEPT**  
To Return From Wedding Tour and Surprise Friends.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NORFOLK, VA., December 31.—Being married a week without even a knowing, Edward L. Allen, a leading school teacher of county and postmaster at Don, returned to-day with his bride, Miss Flora Virginia Hull, who is a daughter of Mrs. Hull. The wedding was kept a secret, and the bride and groom were surprised by their friends.

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Contradictory Evidence as to Surrender.  
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**FRENCH MINISTER IS DEAD**  
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PARIS, December 31.—Jean Francois Edmund Guyot-Dessaigne, the French Minister of Justice, dropped dead of apoplexy during to-day's session of the Senate.

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**BATTERY TO BRONX SUBWAY**  
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NEW YORK, December 31.—The Public Service Commission to-day approved preliminary plans for a new subway extending from the Battery to the Bronx, in very nearly a straight line. The estimated cost is \$60,000,000. The resolution directs the chief engineer and counsel to prepare final plans and specifications to be submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for its approval. The work could be begun at a very early date.

**WRECKS HISTORIC BUILDING**  
Two Explosions Injure Many and Cause Sensation in Home Town.  
ROME, December 31.—The Temple of Neptune, built by Hadrian, and standing in the centre of the forum of the city, now occupied by the Stock Exchange, was an ancient structure of a tremendous explosion, causing a sensation almost as great as the explosion of a bomb on November 18, 1906. The concussion was so great that many persons throughout the city were terrified, and great crowds rushed to the scene. Within the building there were many people, but fortunately the great majority of the brokers had left.

**DESPERATE FIGHT ON MOVING TRAIN**  
Drunken Negro Falls or Thrown Through Window and Killed.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., December 31.—While enroute Chesapeake and Ohio passenger train, No. 14, was going at the rate of thirty miles an hour last night, an unknown colored man, who was drunk, fell through the window of a third-class coach. His body was bruised and battered, and with the neck broken, was picked up morning near Afton by a passing train.

**IS CONQUERED BY NORTHERN MAN**  
J. L. Watkins, of Syracuse, Goes to Aid of Conductor and Has Rough-and-Tumble Fight With Negro—Dead Man's Neck Broken.  
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**COAST LINE MAY COME**  
Postponement of Rate Hearing Said to Indicate This.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
RALEIGH, N. C., December 31.—Standing against the proposed Atlantic Coast Line passenger rate increase, an indefinite postponement of the hearing set for January 9th in the Atlantic Coast Line passenger rate litigation, has been announced by the commission to determine the constitutionality of the 2 1/4-cent rate. No reason is officially given for the postponement, but it is believed, however, that the postponement is a sign of the commission's attitude toward the proposed rate increase.

**FLOTILLA REACHES PARA**  
Has Rough Voyage and Steamer in a Day Behind Schedule.  
PARA, BRAZIL, December 31.—The torpedo boat flotilla, which is preceding the battleship fleet to the Pacific, arrived here to-day from Port of Spain, 75,000 miles from home. The voyage was a rough one, and the steamer was a day behind schedule. The flotilla was composed of several torpedo boats, and they were accompanied by a battleship. The fleet is expected to arrive in the Pacific in a few days.

**PRODDING MULE; KILLS SELF**  
Well Known Norfolk County Man Ends Life in Peculiar Way.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NORFOLK, VA., December 31.—S. W. Baker, residing near Oaklett, Norfolk county, shot and killed himself with a Winchester rifle. It was an accident, and one of the most peculiar ever recorded.

**WANTS RICHMOND WIFE**  
Brookline, Mass., Man Hopes to Make Leap Year Match.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
BOSTON, MASS., December 31.—Joseph Keating, a wealthy real estate owner of Brookline, Mass., wants a Southern wife, and to get one will resort to advertising in Richmond. He tried it about a year ago, and had a big bunch of answers, but none suited. Now he has printed a number of circulars bearing his picture and a list of his qualifications, and it is being sent to Richmond. He expects this time to be successful.

**WINS NEW YORK BRIDE**  
John W. Currie, of Rossmore, Weds Miss Anna Atwood.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
BOSTON, MASS., December 31.—As pretty a romance as ever graced the pages of a romance novel, the wedding of John W. Currie, of Rossmore, Va., and Miss Anna Atwood, of New York City, was celebrated to-day in the city of New York. The bride was a beautiful girl, and the groom was a wealthy man. The wedding was a grand affair, and it was attended by many guests.

**KNOCKS OUT BURGLAR**  
Sends Him Through Window With a Blow of Her Fist.  
NEWARK, N. J., December 31.—As Miss Adelaide Hest of Bloomfield, N. J., was starting to bed about 12 o'clock Monday night she struck a match to light the gas and saw a man climbing into her room.

**NOISY GREETING TO INCOMING YEAR**  
Rattle of Fireworks and Scream of Whistles at Midnight Hour.  
With a scream of whistles, the ringing of church bells, a rattle of fireworks, and hurrahs from many throats, Richmond joyfully turned at the stroke of midnight to welcome the New Year of 1908.

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Hundreds of Watch-Night Parties Held in City—Year Has Been Good One, and City Looks Forward With Confidence to Future.  
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